THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, the telephone exchange in Syunshi under Bironkhal block has been working satisfactorily for the last one year except during the month of April'99 due to interruption in satellite link and during the month of September'99 due to fault in the power plant/exchange.

(b) and (c) No Sir, the technical work related to the exchange is being attended to by the Junior Telecom Officer posted at Pauri. However, a regular mazdoor posted at Syunshi is looking after the day-to-day maintenance works of the exchange.

Direct dialing facility in Orissa

2018. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication network in Orissa is yet to improve to Direct Dialing System within the district;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide this facility to every district in Orissa; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in introducing this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Communication Network in Orissa is adequate within the district. The direct dialing facility on code "90" is available within a Long Distance Charging Area(LDCA) which generally represents a revenue district. The charging of calls within a LDCA however depends upon the radial distance between two charging centers.

Direct dialing at 180 sec.pulse rate (Inter-dialing without STD code) is also provided when:—

(i) Two Short Distance Charging Areas(SDCAs) are adjacent.

(ii) The charging centers of two SDCAs, within the same or adjacent LDCAs is upto 50 Kms.

(iii) The charging centers of two non adjacent LDCAs is upto 50 Kms.

Fall in mail traffic

2019. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the onset of electronic communications,